

Message Text

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ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OES-07 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /044 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1265

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652C N/A

TAGS: SOCI, EAID, EZNC, NI, US

SUBJECT: VISIT TO ABUJA AND NEW FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY

REF: LAGOS 5534

1. KADUNA CONSUL BURKE AND I SPENT MAY 17-18 TOURING NEW FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY AREA BY HELICOPTER. INSPECTION WAS LAID ON FOR US BY US GEOLOGICAL SERVICE (USGS) TEAM BASED IN ABUJA ON NORTHERN EDGE OF 7,000 SQUARE MILES FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY LOCATED ROUGHLY IN CENTER OF COUNTRY. FOUR-MAN USGS TEAM EXPECTS COMPLETE GEOLOGICAL, WATER AND RESOURCE SURVEY OF AREA IN EARLY JUNE IN FULFILLMENT OF \$200,000 REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT ARRANGED UNDER FAA SECTIONS 661 AND 607 WITH NIGERIAN FEDERAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FCDA). USGS SURVEY STARTED IN EARLY MARCH. TEAM EXPECTS LEAVE NIGERIA BY MID-JUNE.

2. JOINING US FOR PORTIONS OF TOUR WERE THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL PLANNING ASSOCIATES (IPA), CONSORTION OF SIX MAJOR AMERICAN COMPANIES THAT IS EXPECTED SIGN MASTER CAPITAL PLANNING AND DESIGN CONTRACT WITH FCDA IN LAGOS JUNE 18. (FCDA CHAIRMAN EBONG ANTICIPATES NO DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING FORMAL SMC APPROVAL FOR THIS CONTRACT EARLY NEXT MONTH, BUT HAS ASKED THAT NO PUBLICITY BE GIVEN PRIOR TO SIGNING. (SEE REFTTEL.) IPA HOPES

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TO START MOBILIZING ON SITE IN JULY-AUGUST WITH ONE YEAR TARGET FOR FIRST-STAGE OF COMPLETED PLAN. IPA REPRESENTATIVES, WHO HAD NEVER BEFORE VISITED THE FEDERAL CAPITAL SITE, WERE ABRAMM KRUSHKHOV (ARCHI-SYSTEMS OF VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA), THOMAS TODD (WALLACE, MC-CHARG, ROBERTS AND TODD, ARCHITECTS/PLANNERS, PHILADELPHIA), AND REED (PLANNING RESEARCH CORPORATION). KRUSHKHOV TOLD US ORIGINALLY PROPOSED PROJECT WAS FOR \$15 MILLION BUT HAD TO BE SCALED

DOWN TO \$2 MILLION AT FCDA REQUEST.

3. MY TRIP TO ABUJA WAS PRECEDED BY VISIT WITH NIGER STATE MILITARY GOVERNOR IN MINNA. (ALTHOUGH ONLY 55 MILES AS CROW FLIES, MINNA TO ABJA IS THREE HOURS BY DIRT ROAD.) CALLS IN ABUJA WERE MADE ON EMIR OF ABUJA, SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY (LGA), AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LGA. ROLE OF USGS IN COLLABORATION WITH FCDA HAS BEEN WARMLY ACCEPTED AND THERE APPEARS TO BE GENUINE ANTHUSIASM FOR POSSIBILITY OF EXTENSIVE INVOLVEMENT OF US PRIVATE COMPANIES IN IMPLEMENTING MASSIVE FEDERAL CAPITAL AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

4. WORK OF USGS TEAM AS SUPPLEMENTED BY NIGERIAN GEOLOGICAL SERVICE (NGS) COUNTERPARTS APPEARS TO HAVE ACHIEVED GOOD RESULTS CONSISTENT WITH REQUIREMENTS LAID DOWN BY FCDA. USGS TEAM LEADER OVERSTREET BELIEVES PROJECT SCHEDULES CAN BE SET WITHIN PRESCRIBED TIME LIMITS. IT IS HIS INTENTION PRESENT DRAFT COPIES OF GEOLOGIC MAP TO OKEZIE OF THE NGS ON JUNE 8 IN KADUNA AND TO EBONG OF THE FCDA ON JUNE 10 IN LAGOS. OVERSTREET STATES IT IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE ALSO DELIVER AT THAT TIME SEVERAL COPIES OF LANDSAT LAND-USE INTERPRETATIVE MAP. OKEZIE AND EBONG URGENTLY NEED THIS MAP IN FACE OF RAPIDLY SNOW-BALLING INTEREST FROM FIRMS HOLDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND DESIGN CONTRACTS WITH FCDA. OVERSTREET STATES AND I CONCUR THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT CHIDESTER OR OTHER APPROPRIATELY-RANKED OFFICIAL OF USGS OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGY BE PRESENT FOR KADUNA PRESENTATION JUNE 8.

5. IN OVERSTREET'S VIEW, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT REPRESENTATIVE COMING TO KADUNA FROM USGS/WASHINGTON BE PREPARED CLARIFY FUNCTIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF INDIVIDUALS CITED IN PARAGRAPHS 2.1 AND 2.2 OF ARTICLE II OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN USGS AND FCDA (SEE MOU/GON-1, GENERAL PROVISIONS OF UNDERSTANDING). IN THIS CONNECTION, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT USGS "PROGRAM COORDINATOR" HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS REQUIRED BY THIS MEMORANDUM, BUT SPECIFIED "PROJECT OFFICER" HAS NOT BEEN NAMED. WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE SHOLLD ALSO BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS CONCEPTUAL BASIS FOR ONGOING ASSOCIATION BETWEEN USGS AND FCDA IN EVENT POSSIBILITY FOR SUCH RELATIONSHIP SHOULD DEVELOP IN FUTURE TALKS WITH FCDA OFFICIALS. THE POSSIBLE ROLE OF THE UGGS IN MONITORING FOUNDATION STUDIES THAT MAY BE ASSIGNED TO DANES AND MOORE UNDER THE IPA CONSORTION ARRANGEMENT MAY REQUIRE CLARIFICATION. OVERSTREET BELIEVES THAT SUCH MONITORING COULD NOT BE EFFECTIVELY PERFORMED WITHOUT A MORE PERMANENT SURVEILLANCE AND PRESENCE ON THE PART OF THE USGS THAN HE BELIEVES MAY BE PRESENTLY ENVISAGED.

6. BURKE AND I WERE IMPRESSED BY ENERGY, ATTENTION TO DETAIL, AND SENSITIVITY TO LOCAL ENVIRONMENT DISPLAYED BY OVERSTREET AND HIS COLLEAGUES. WE BELIEVE THIS VENTURE HAS BEEN AN EXCELLENT

DEMONSTRATION OF EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF FAA SECTIONS 661 AND 607.

7. AF REQUESTED PASS SUBSTANCE THIS TELEGRAM TO CHIDESTER, USGS OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR.

8. I HAVE JUST SEEN STATE 112968, WHICH HAD NOT REACHED OVER-STREET WHEN WE DISCUSSED KADUNA MEETING (PARAGRAPH 4), CHIDESTER'S VISIT MOST WELCOME.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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